**Portrait Photo**



Title: Firefighter Creighton  
  
Tags: portrait, firefighter, fire chief  
  
I have often photographed my son in his firefighter gear; however, for this photo I got closer to him and I did not use a flash. The flash usually highlights the reflective yellow on the fire helmet. I think that this captures Creighton's personality. He was just explaining how he had been on shift and had one call that he had to run. He made sure he had his flashlight close to him in case he couldn't see in the fire. My son takes his firefighting seriously, so he told me he wasn't going to smile for this shot. I love this shot.  
  
I took a few shots of my son with his gear on and I used flash for a few and a few without a flash. I know that I could have gotten closer to his face, but I wanted to really capture how he uses everyday things for his gear. He has a winter toboggan on his head under his helmet that serves as his protective gear for his mask. His old backpack serves as his air tank, and his store bought flashlight is just like Daddy's. I enjoyed taking the portrait shots at a closer angle, and I also used the portrait setting on my camera. I will continue to experiment with the lighting for shots like this one; I might take this same shot in the daytime to see the difference.

**Peer Critique**

<http://thesnapshots.wikispaces.com/Kevin-P4>

Kevin, your ideas never cease to amaze me! I like that you did the layering of the photos to achieve your results; however, I cannot really see your face because of the computer screen. Maybe that is what you were hoping for. I would suggest maybe moving the picture of you over to the right slightly; in doing so, the eye will be seen poking through the hands and be more obvious. It gets lost behind the green of the computer screen. If I can figure out how my Photoshop elements software works, I would like to try to layer photos as well. Overall, you did a nice job portraying yourself and your frustration.

**Other Comments**

Donna, I like this photo of your husband; however, it is blurry when it comes up on my screen. I'm not sure if it is the original shot or the Photoshop elements that make it blurry. I'm still toying with my Photoshop elements so I understand that part. The angle of this shot makes me look at his nose and mouth instead of his eyes. I would suggest that you shoot this from a different angle and to include the original photo so that we can see the difference. Nice job, Donna. :O) (Thanks, Emily. I agree with your suggestions. I think the photo came out blurry because I had photoshopped it as art. I actually like the blurred effect created by the "art" component. I think it makes his eyes sparkle.)

Jacki, I like this shot of the coach; however, my eyes were not drawn immediately to his profile. His face seems to melt into the sky behind him. I am more drawn to the darkness of his shirt since I cannot tell where the sky begins and where his profile is. It also looks like he is sniffing the tree next to his nose. I would suggest that you try this picture from a different angle or try to Photoshop the trees behind him. This photo might be different if not in black and white. I hope this info helps.

Michael, this is a great photo! You are brave to do a self portrait. I do not think I could fit everything about me in one shot. I really like how you edited the shot to give your head more room at the top of the photo. I also like the depth of field in this shot as well as the rule of thirds concept. My eyes are drawn to the various faces and then I end at your face pondering the world. I think you did an excellent job with the composition of this shot. I was going to suggest that you include more room for your head, but Jacki obviously saw that first. Nice job Michael!